

REMARKS

In the Restriction Requirement mailed June 19, 2008, claims 1-51 were pending and subject to restriction/election. Claims 20, 26, 29, 40, 43, 46, 48, 49 and 50 are amended above and claim 28 is cancelled. Further consideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following election and remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner asserts that there are claims directed to three distinct inventions in the application grouped as follows:

- I: Figs. 1-16, 27-28 relating to claims 1-19, 21-25
- II: Figs. 1-16, 29-30 relating to claim 20
- III: Figs. 1-26 relating to claims 26-51

Group I including claims 1-19 and 21-25 is hereby elected with traverse to the extent that restriction is improper if claim 7 linking Groups II and III with Group I is found allowable. Independent claims 20, 26 and 43 have been amended to include all the features of claim 7 and links Groups II and III to Group I. MPEP 809 states that linking claims must be examined with, and thus are considered part of, the invention elected, and any claim which depends from or requires all the limitations of an allowable linking claim must be rejoined and fully examined for patentability. Since claim 20 of Group II and claims 26-27 and 29-51 of Group III include all the features of claim 7, rejoinder and examination of these claims is proper if claim 7 is allowable. If claim 7 is not allowable then restriction is proper. See MPEP 818.03.

Claim 28 has been cancelled to avoid redundancy with amended claim 26, and claims 29 and 40 are amended to maintain consistency with amended claim 26. Claims 46, 48, 49 and 50 are amended to maintain consistency with amended claim 43. The present application is believed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application as amended and including claims 1-27 and 29-51 is respectfully requested. A notice of allowance is hereby solicited.

The examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned to resolve any outstanding issues with regard to the present application.

Respectfully submitted:

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